

SYDNEY**Crush Australia?**

Since the end of the war Australians, enjoying a rapidly advancing economy, minimal unemployment and lots of sports, have shown little interest in foreign or military affairs. Defense takes a mere 10% of the federal budget; there is no conscription, and all services together have only 50,000 men under arms. In the last few months some citizens have begun to realize that they cannot avoid involvement in the deepening Southeast Asian crisis, and

Abroad

that Australia as well as Malaysia "confronts" Sukarno's galloping empire. An Australian "battle group" is included in the "Commonwealth Strategic Reserve" stationed in Malaysia. Australian minesweepers and helicopters have recently been sent to North Borneo and a company of sappers is about to leave for Sarawak. Sir Garfield Barwick, the Foreign Minister, anticipating increased participation, stated that an attack by Sukarno's guerrillas on Australian troops in Sarawak would give Australia the right to invoke the ANZUS (Australia-New Zealand-United States) pact, thus obliging the United States to come to Australia's support.

GENEVA

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The International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee of the International Telecommunication Union has just finished a meeting that will have more global repercussions than half a dozen Summits. The decision has now been made to go ahead with a worldwide extension of direct subscriber-to-subscriber telephone dialing. The system will be operating within a decade. London, Moscow, New York, Tokyo, Singapore and Sydney have been selected as the key intercontinental switching centers. Sighing like Alexander for more worlds to conquer, the Committee assigned the continent-controlling first digits: 1, North America; 2, Africa; 3 and 4, Europe; 5, South America; 6, Australia and Oceania; 7, Russia; 8, eastern Asia; 9, the rest of Asia.

LEGCO, SWAZILAND**Verwoerd's Round**

Swaziland is a British Protectorate extending into South Africa (the Transvaal) from the Mozambique border. Its population consists of 360,000 Africans and 10,000 whites. It is now moving politically into self-government and self-determination, and in mid-July elected its first Legislative Council. The franchise was extended to all inhabitants on a simon-pure one-man-one-vote basis. There was complete freedom of political expression and organization. The Swazi Paramount Chief, Sobhuza II, strongly advocates apartheid and the South African program for establishing Bantustans. He was supported by the so-called "King's Party" and the European-organized United Swaziland Association. The Ndwane National Liberatory Con-

gress, the Democratic Party and several smaller groups denounced apartheid and called for racial integration (i.e., total black domination). The result: an overwhelming victory for apartheid, with all legislative seats won by the two parties supporting Sobhuza—24 by the King's Party and four by the Association. Political merger into South Africa becomes a likely future possibility for the Protectorate.

BAGHDAD**Family Honor**

The present government of Iraq, installed after the overthrow of Kassem last year, is exceedingly conservative in the Islamic sense, and has been especially concerned to uphold the family as the basis of society. To that end, the government recently published a decree authorizing execution, by members of the family, of wives guilty of misconduct. Heretofore such executions have been routinely carried out, in any case—usually by a brother of the wife—but the executioner has sometimes been liable to punishment by imprisonment up to ten years. Along with the new clarifying decree go two others liberating a considerable number of executioner-brothers presently in jail. "Misconduct" of a kind to "dishonor the family," and

Jensen, *Sunday Telegraph*, England

Ben Roth Agency

The Strong Man

therefore to merit brotherly intervention, is defined to include: prostitution; adultery; abandonment of the conjugal home; the intention to marry or re-marry without the family's consent.

LONDON**Imperial Birds**

Many tourists have noted the ravens at the Tower of London, but few realize the critical duty assigned to them. From the time of Charles II it has been known that the Tower will fall and the British Empire collapse if the ravens desert. Six are on permanent duty. A crisis arose in January when one of them, Brora II, was badly injured in combat with several of the others. He has now been officially retired to a bird sanctuary, and a reserve bird, Grog, has been called up to take his place in the active unit, along with Brora I, Cora, Corax, Kala II and Garvie.

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